

**SHOREVIEW CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING  
MINUTES  
July 9, 2012**

**ATTENDEES:**

City Council: Mayor Martin; Councilmembers Huffman, Quigley, and Wickstrom

Staff: Terry Schwerm, City Manager  
Mark Maloney, Public Works Director  
Laurie Elliott, Human Resource Director

Mayor Martin opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmember Withhart was absent.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING SECTION 218 MODIFICATION AGREEMENT**

**Presentation by Human Resource Director Laurie Elliott**

In regard to retirement savings plans, Councilmembers elected prior to July 1, 2002 are allowed to participate in both the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) Defined Contribution Plan (DCP) and Social Security. Under current law, Councilmembers will be required to choose between the two plans and cannot participate in both. In order for the new Councilmember to participate in both retirement savings options, a Section 218 Social Security Modification Agreement must be approved by the Council. A Modification Agreement would require all future Councilmembers to participate in Social Security and allow the option of participating in PERA's DCP plan.

A resolution passed by the Council begins the process to set up a Modification Agreement to allow newly elected Councilmembers to participate in one or both plans. A referendum must also be held among current Councilmembers who only participate in one of the plans. The referendum would be to choose whether to remain in just one plan or choose to go into both plans. The referendum would only impact Councilmembers Withhart and Wickstrom.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to move forward to execute a Section 218 Social Security Modification Agreement, effective the day after the date that the resolution is passed.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING RUSTIC/HAWES/DEMAR ROAD NOISE****Presentation by Public Works Director Mark Maloney**

Upon completion of the Rustic/Hawes/Demar road reconstruction project, the issue of road noise was raised by residents at the assessment hearing. Staff visited the neighborhood and learned that noise created by vehicles traveling normal speeds on the new concrete road is noticeable inside and outside of homes on all three streets in the project.

Concrete is noisier than asphalt. The noise is caused from tires passing over the concrete joints. It is a function of how the joints were built. On this project, they were not built with the saw-cut process. What is difficult is that the noise is a constant hum. Quotes were solicited from contractors certified in the process of diamond grinding work to try to address the problem. The cost is in the range of \$33,000. There is no precedent to address this issue. Mr. Schwerm stated that studies have shown that the grinding process will not eliminate all of the road noise but will reduce it.

Councilmember Huffman asked if some of the responsibility lies with the contractor. Mr. Maloney responded that the road was built according to specifications. The City has no recourse with the contractor.

Councilmember Quigley noted that with the result of only a modest degree of modification, the City would be going to extremes to accommodate residents with no guarantee that there will be any significant improvement.

Councilmember Huffman stated that it would be better if there were a quantifiable measurement so the City would be able to say that the grinding process improved the situation by so much. Mr. Schwerm stated that staff will check with concrete experts to see if there are any statistics on using this grinding method for improvement.

Mayor Martin stated that she would like to know how many in the neighborhood are impacted by the noise. She suggested a letter to residents explaining that as a result of concern about road noise, the City is considering a project to modify the problem in the cost range of \$35,000 of taxpayer dollars. The letter would explain the process. On a scale of 1 to 5, residents would be asked whether the modification work is needed and justified.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to send a letter to all households in the project area and request residents to rate the impact of road noise on a scale of 1 to 5 before making a decision to have the diamond grinding work done.

**REVIEW OF BUCHER PARK PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN****Presentation by City Manager Terry Schwerm**

Two well attended neighborhood meetings have been held regarding improvements to Bucher Park. Two concept plans were developed and presented to residents and the Parks and Recreation Commission. After receiving feedback on the two concepts, a preliminary Master Plan for Bucher Park was developed.

Key elements of the preliminary plan include:

- New entrance plaza and entry gateway into the park that uses decorative fencing to direct people to these entrances.
- A new larger picnic shelter (similar to the one at Sitzer Park) that is part of the entrance plaza located between the park building and the new playground area. The picnic shelter could be rented.
- Larger expanded playground area with the toddler area separated from the older youth.
- Expanded and improved trails on both the southern and northern portions of the park. Trails would be extended to make a loop around the park and connect to County Road J.
- Improvements to an existing pond before it drains to Kerry Lakes.
- New plaza area near the baseball fields that would include a relocated picnic shelter to improve drainage and create shade. This would be an area where both soccer and softball games can be watched.
- Add a second themed play area adjacent to the new ballfield plaza.
- Modest drainage improvements and regrading of the soccer fields.
- Enhanced landscaping throughout the park.
- New updated fitness stations to replace the former vita course.

Councilmember Huffman asked if there is disability access. Mr. Schwerm stated that rubber padding is not proposed under the playground, but it will be upgraded to a wood mulch that meets disability standards.

Mayor Martin noted the astro turf for the toddler area at Island Lake Park makes it one of the best toddler park areas. There are a small number of toddlers, and he would not advise investing a lot of money in the toddler area because by the age of 3, children want to go to the bigger equipment.

Mayor Martin stated that she would prefer the toddler area not be separated from the playground, as it is shown. Often there is one parent trying to watch several children.

The base cost for trails, entrance plaza, infiltration basin and general site amenities is a cost of approximately \$340,000. That is the amount budgeted for this project—\$200,000 from the CIP and \$140,000 from the General Fixed Asset Revolving Fund. An additional \$200,000 would allow a new picnic shelter, entry plaza and relocation of the existing picnic shelter, and the new fitness stations. Improvements to the soccer fields would be another \$50,000. The Park and Recreation Commission recommends putting the additional \$200,000 into this project.

Councilmember Quigley asked if there is more value with a bigger project and whether there is an equity relationship among the parks in the City. Mr. Schwerm stated that there would be more value from a bidder. The proposal for Bucher compares favorably with what was done at Sitzer Park. The improvements at Sitzer cost \$300,000 with an additional \$70,000 for the new playground. Mr. Schwerm stated that it is heavily used for soccer, softball and tennis, and is a much larger park which is why the costs are higher.

Councilmember Huffman stated that he hopes the improved drainage will eliminate wet soccer fields. Mr. Schwerm stated that the cost of regrading soccer fields has not been determined due to soil borings that have to be completed. The park design firm is still developing estimates for improving the soccer field drainage.

Councilmember Huffman also expressed concern that more money is being spent than at Sitzer. Mr. Schwerm noted that Sitzer is 10 acres; Bucher consists of 25 acres. This Master Plan identifies improvements for now and in the future. The front entry and trail work can be done within the existing budget. A number of items can be bid as alternates and added back into the project if bids are favorable.

### **Pickleball**

Pickleball has become a very popular sport, and staff is recommending pickleball courts be put in at the Shoreview Commons and Shamrock Park. This project should be completed by Labor Day.

It was the consensus of the Council for staff to move forward with Bucher Park plans and support the addition of pickleball courts as recommended.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.